(iii) STD PCOs targets for Major Cities and others of Maharashtra are as under:

1. Pune	1295
2. Nagpur	615
3. Kalyan-	615
4. Kolhapur	480
5. Ahmednagar	295
6. Nasik	455
7. Satara	250
8. Aurangabad	250
9. Others	3245

(c) STD PCOs are allotted to educated unemployed persons having Mnimum qualifications of 10th pass for urban areas and 8th pass in rural areas. These are allotted on seniority basis by STD PCO allotment committee (constituted one for each Secondary Switching Area (SSA)) comprising two official members and one representative each of sitting Members of Parliament from the SSA. Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST Applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen & War Widows.
4. Retired DOT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

(d) No change in the procedure at (c) above is proposed at present.

Statement

Targets for STD Public Telephones for 1998-99

S.No.	Name of Circles/ District	STD/ISD/ PCOs
1.	A & N	35
2.	A. P.	6000
3.	Assam	1500
4.	Bihar	6000
5.	Gujarat	4500
6.	Haryana	1715
7.	H.P.	750
8.	J & K	750
9.	Karnataka	6000
10.	Kerala	2250
11.	M.P.	6000
12.	Maharashtra	7500
13.	N.E.	750
14.	Orissa	900
15.	Punjab	3000
16.	Rajasthan	4500
17.	Tamil Nadu	7500
18.	U.P. (East)	7500
19.	U.P. (West)	4500
20.	West Bengal	4500
21.	Mumbai	4500
22.	Calcutta	5500
23.	Delhi	4500
24.	Chennai	3000
	TOTAL	93650

ISD Tariff

1295. SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) .whether India has a uniform ISD tariff for all hours of the day/night;

(b) whether it is a fact that other countries have different rates for different hours;

(c) whether Government propose to restructuring ISD tariff;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir. India has separate ISD tariff for peak and non-peak hours.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The department of Telecom has no such proposal at present. However, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, formed under the TRAI Act 1997, has brought out a

Consulation Paper on Telecom Pricing, suggesting rebalancing of Telecom Tariffs—including ISD rates. The proposal of TRAI in this regard are summarised at Statement *(See* below).

The (TRAI) is in the process of consulting service providers, consumer organisation and the general public for their views on the consulation paper.

Statement

ISD Charges:

Categories of countries	Existing Puls Rate/Rate Per Minutes (Peak Time)		Proposed Pulse Rate/Rate Per Minutes (Peak time) by TRAI	
	(sec.)	(Rs.)	(sec.)	(Rs.)
SAARC Countries and neighbouring Countries	2	(18.00 to 42.00)	4	19.50
Countries in Africa, Gulf, Asia and Oceania	1.2	(30.00 to 70.00)	2.6	30.00
Countries in the Continent and other Places West Hemisphere.	1	(36.00 to 84.00)	2	39.00

International Call Charges

1296. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that International telephone calls from India are among the most expensive in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons for such a high rate of charges as 6.35 US dollar for U.S.A. whereas it is only 5.10 US dollar from Japan, 3.00 US dollar from Australia, 2.64 US dollar from Hong Kong and 3.25 US dollar from Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) To the extent available, information relating to comparative internaional tariff structure in India vis-a-vis a few other countries, is given at Statement (See below). The fugures indicate that while the international calling rates from some countries to India are higher than those from India, in a few other cases it is the reverse.

(c) It is presumed that the rates mentioned in the question are the rates from India to the respective countries. The rate of 6.35 US$ for USA is the rate for operator assisted calls for 3 minutes. The present per minute peak ISD rates from India to USA is only Rs. 75.00 whereas this is Rs. 62.50 for Japan, Australia & Honk Kong and Rs. 37.50 for Sri Lanka.